

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Department of Health**



**Office of the Director**

February 21, 2006

**Endorsement for the DC Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan**

As Director of the Department of Health, I am pleased to strongly endorse the District of Columbia Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan, produced collaboratively by the District of Columbia Cancer Coalition and the Department of Health, with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The District of Columbia has very high mortality rates for many types of cancer, and in recognition of this, the Department of Health had in 2001, helped to form the DC Cancer Coalition to serve as a partner in addressing comprehensive cancer control and prevention strategies. Since then, the Cancer Coalition and the Health Department have worked together to develop this comprehensive cancer control plan, which provides a strategic framework to address the various cancers of concern to District residents.

I hereby publicly thank the DC Cancer Coalition for its relentless efforts to complete the Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan, and to welcome renewed efforts in its implementation. Although the Department of Health is charged with improving the health status of DC residents, it needs the support and participation of hospitals and community clinics, specialists and primary care physicians, health professionals, family members, and individuals in this battle against cancer. The message is simple and clear: we can reduce our risk for cancer through behavior modification, as well as through early and regular screening for various cancers.

As the District begins the implementation of the comprehensive cancer control plan, the Department of Health welcomes collaboration with major stakeholders from the Federal government, other District government agencies, the healthcare community, community organizations and individuals interested in reducing the burden of cancer in the District. By working together, we can make a difference in preventing and controlling cancer in the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregg A. Pane MD", is written over the printed name.

Gregg A. Pane, MD, MPA  
Director

District of Columbia Department of Health